

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MUNICH 2414

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FOR EUR/LEURS AND SEYMOUR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SOPN
SUBJECT: BALTIMORE SUN ARTICLE FOCUSSES ON DIFFICULTIES IN
RL RUSSIAN SERVICE

1. INTRO AND SUMMARY. AUGUST 14 (SUNDAY) EDITION OF BALTIMORE
SUN CARRIES PAGE ONE ARTICLE ON RFE/RL BY PAPER'S BONN CORRESPONDENT,
MICHAEL BURNS. BURNS FOCUSSES ON ALLEGED TENSIONS BETWEEN OLDER
AND NEWER RUSSIAN EMIGRES EMPLOYEES BY THE RADIOS, AND NOTES
THAT SEVERAL EMPLOYEES HAVE REFERRED TO "AN ANTI-SEMITIC ATMOSPHERE"
AT RL. ALTHOUGH RFE/RL MANAGEMENT HAS ALREADY TAKEN STEPS TO
DEAL WITH EMIGRE TENSIONS IN RL RUSSIAN SERVICE, SUN ARTICLE
COULD ADD NEW FUEL TO ONGOING SOVIET PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN AGAINST
RADIOS. END SUMMARY.

2. ALTHOUGH SUN ARTICLE TREATS A NUMBER OF PROBLEMS FACING
RFE/RL, INCLUDING OLYMPIC ACCREDITATION, JAMMING, AND NEED FOR
TRANSMITTER MODERNIZATION, IT FOCUSSES LARGELY ON THE TENSIONS
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IN RL'S RUSSIAN SERVICE WHICH REACHED CRESCENDO IN JANUARY 1977.

3. DESCRIPTION OF TENSOS BETWEEN RL RUSSIAN SERVICE EMPLOYEES
FROM "THIRD EMIGRATION," WHO ARE PREDOMINATELY JEWS, AND
EMPLOYEES FROM EARLIER EMIGRATIONS, WHO ARE PREDOMINATELY
GREAT RUSSIAN, IS REASONABLY ACCURATE. ARTICLE'S CHARACTERIZATIONS
OF LAWSUITS BROUGHT BY MRS. RACHEL FEDOSEYEV ARE, HOWEVER,

SOMEWHAT MISLEADING. TECHNICALLY SPEAKING, MRS. FEDOSEYEV HAS NOT CHARGED FELLOW EMPLOYEES WITH "ANTI-SEMITISM" AND "FACIST TENDENCIES." IN FACT, SHE HAS CHARGED THEM WITH LIBEL AND SLANDER IN ACCUSING HER OF ATTEMPTING TO AROUSE NATIONAL ANTAGONISMS AMONG RL EMPLOYEES.

4. ARTICLE ALSO REVEALS THAT THE FORMER MANAGING EDITOR OF RL RUSSIAN SERVICE MATUSEVITCH WROTE LETTER TO U.S. AMBASSADOR IN BONN IN SPRING REQUESTING AN INVESTIGATION OF "ESCALATING ANTI-SEMITIC ATMOSPHERE" AT RL.

5. BURNS ASSERTS THAT SOME OF NEWER EMIGRES (I.E. MEMBERS OF "THIRD EMIGRATION") FEAR THAT MANY OF THEIR OLDER COLLEAGUES ARE EITHER AFFILIATED WITH OR ARE BEHOLDEN TO THE NTS. ARTICLE ALLEGES THAT NTS'S POLITICAL PROGRAM HAS BEEN INFLUENCED BY ITALIAN FACISM AND THAT MANY MEMBERS OF THE ORGANIZATION COLLABORATED WITH THE NAZIS DURING WWII.

6. CONGEN HAS LEARNED THAT SUN CORRESPONDENT BURNS WAS IN MUNICH ABOUT ONE WEEK AGO AT WHICH TIME HE INTERVIEWED A NUMBER OF RFE/RL EMPLOYEES. UNDERSTAND THAT BURNS ALSO HAD A MEETING WITH FREE LANCE CORRESPONDENT JOHN DORNBERG WHO HAD PREVIOUSLY WRITTEN (BUT FAILED TO GET PUBLISHED) STORY ON TENSIONS IN RL. (MUNICH 0890 NOTAL).

7. COMMENT. RFE/RL MANAGEMENT HERE BELIEVES STORY MAY CAUSE
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LESS DAMAGE NOW THAN IT WOULD HAVE FIVE OR SIX MONTHS AGO. RL RUSSIAN SERVICE HAS BEEN UNDER NEW MANAGER SINCE MAY 1, AND TENSIONS BETWEEN OLDER AND NEWER EMIGRES SEEM TO HAVE SUBSIDED CONSIDERABLY IN RECENT MONTHS.

8. ALLEGATIONS THAT ANTI-SEMITISM HAS BEEN AND REMAINS A PROBLEM AT RL WILL NOT REPEAT NOT, HOWEVER, GO UNNOTICED. RFE/RL MANAGEMENT EXPECTS JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS B'NAI B'RITH TO MAKE APPROPRIATE INQUIRIES. FURTHER MEDIA ATTENTION IN U.S. AND WESTERN EUROPE IS, OF COURSE, A POSSIBILITY.

9. WE WONDER, TOO, WHETHER SOVIETS WILL BE TEMPTED TO SEEK PROPAGANDA MILEAGE FROM ALLEGATIONS OF ANTI-SEMITISM AT RL. CAMPAIGN TO DISCREDIT RL MIGHT BE PARTICULARLY TEMPTING AT TIME WHEN CSCE FOLLOW-UP CONFERENCE IN BELGRADE IS ABOUT TO RE-CONVENE.
GILMORE

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